



BIG MOUNTAIN SEWER DISTRICT

PO Box 1252
Whitefish, Montana 59937

Board of Directors Work Session
July 5, 2018 1:00pm Conference Room, Kandahar Lodge

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:00pm

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Present were Dan Graves, Bob Lund, Bob Riso, Sandie Carpenter, David Ruoff, Jason Hanchett and Amy Dexter.

3. Historical Context for the EDU formula for sewer bills

When Stephanie Jones passed away in July 2014 it was brought to the boards attention that nobody knew how the sewer rates were being calculated. The board made the decision to work with Montana Rural Water and Dan Kramer to develop a rate structure. Dan K's. recommended the board develop a rate structure using Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDUs). A 2nd reason to move to the EDU rate structure was due to the City of Whitefish agreement that references American Water Works Association and reference water line size and the related EDU for each waterline size.

In Aug 2015 the board held a public meeting and adopted the new rate structure.

4. The Lower Subdivision RSID and the resulting water system's impact to the EDU Calculation:

Dan stated that he felt that the some people on the board are implying that WSI has influence over the Sewer System. Dan gave a history on how the Lower Subdivision RSID came about. The residents in that subdivision wanted to improve their road, water, sewer and power. A civil engineer (Carver) was hired to put the development together and determine what changes needed to be made. Dan showed a map of the subdivision and pointed out the different water line sizes and stated that WSI had no influence on who had what size of water line or meter size. Carver engineering worked with the homeowners association to design the changes with the RSID. There is inconsistency of how the water lines were set up and how they are charged with the EDU.

Bob L. asked about Bill installing the meters and who determined the sizes. Dan said that Carver Engineering designed the meter size and Bill supplied the meters and did the install based on the design by Carver Engineering.

The meter size is based on the fixture count. That is why there is no meter size on undeveloped property.

Bob L. questions if the current rate structure is a fair and equitable way to charge the owners.

The meter change that Jason did throughout the last two years did not change the meter size. Jason changed them out for the exact same size that was already in place. Dan stated that the EDU list had some bad information on the data list.

Bob stated that he doesn't have confidence in the data and doesn't feel it is a fair and just way of charging. He doesn't have confidence in the American Water Works Association. He wants to call the consultants back in and thinks it is a big mess.

Dan stated that the main driver in the rate increase is due to the 12% increase from the City of Whitefish and the maintenance expenses that the board agreed upon.

The board decided to move forward with no changes in the EDU or meter sizes and charge accordingly. They will look into the EDU rate, sizing of the meters, and work with engineers to develop other options over the next year.



Dan Graves



Amy Dexter